

Farmland Preservation Program

Planning Incentive Grants

How They Work The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) provides grants to municipalities or counties for the purchase of development easements to permanently protect large blocks of reasonably contiguous farmland in project areas they have identified.

Application Municipalities seeking county funding must forward applications to their county agriculture development board for approval prior to submitting applications to the SADC. Municipalities not seeking county funding and county agriculture development boards should apply directly to the SADC.

Criteria Municipalities must have an agricultural advisory committee; for counties, county agriculture development boards serve this function. Municipal applications must contain a farmland preservation plan element of the master plan, while county applications should correlate with adopted county comprehensive farmland preservation plans. Municipalities or counties must establish and maintain a dedicated source of funding or alternative means of funding farmland preservation.

The SADC will evaluate and rank applications based on the local commitment to agriculture; soil productivity; size of the farms; agricultural density of the project area; proportion of tillable acres; and threat of development. Priority will be given to applications that leverage state funding through installment purchases, option agreements and donations.

Valuation The SADC certifies development values for each farm based on independent appraisals conducted by two licensed appraisers and a review by an SADC staff appraiser.

The SADC establishes preliminary funding allocations for all applications receiving preliminary approval. The maximum initial allocation is \$1.5 million per municipal/county applicant per year. The SADC may increase or decrease preliminary allocations in subsequent years based on the applicants' progress.

For More Information

Contact the State Agriculture Development Committee at (609) 984-2504.

